



Kentucky Talking Book Library

Newsletter

May 2018

KTBL Welcomes a Special Visitor

You may know that the Kentucky Talking Book Library is part of a nationwide network of similar libraries administered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress. NLS provides Talking Book equipment, most of our books, and administrative services. One of those services is assigning an NLS Library Consultant who is our go-to person for questions, problems, and advice.

MaryBeth Wise is our NLS Consultant. She started her career at NLS as a narrator, where she recorded several dozen books. Now she is one of two Network Library Consultants, and her duties include visiting the libraries in her regions every other year. MaryBeth visited KTBL March 12-13. She toured the library and talked with each staff member about their duties and any problems they encountered or innovations they have developed. She also met with our State Librarian, Terry Manual. We are always appreciative of the help MaryBeth provides us, and we were glad to have her with us for a couple of days.



Left to right:
Librarian Tracey
Mania, Studio Manager
Brian Bertucci,
Librarian Janet
Chisman, Librarian
Susan McGinnis,
Manager Barbara
Penegor, Admin. Asst.
Gary Harmon,
Electronic Tech.
Michael Gilbert, NLS
Consultant MaryBeth
Wise, and Admin. Asst.
Devon Stivers.

Duplication on Demand Update

KTBL was one of six libraries to participate in a pilot program to test a new way to distribute Talking Books. It is called Duplication on Demand (DOD) and more than half of you have already been switched to this system. The testing phase ran October through March, and has been a great success. NLS asked us to transition 25% of our patrons to DOD, but we had switched 55.5% by the end of the pilot. We aim to have all patrons switched to DOD by the end of September.

Many of you have told us how much you like this system, but others have had difficulty using the Bookshelf feature to move from book to book. Please don't hesitate to call us to walk you through the process. We don't have room to include them here, but we can send written Bookshelf instructions on request. Contact us if you would like to change the number of books on each cartridge, or how often we send cartridges to you. Nothing has changed about the way books are selected for you; you will receive the same books you would have gotten using the traditional system.

We now only have to process about 200-300 items a day, instead of the 500-1000 we did in the past. But patrons are the ones to benefit most. Some heavy readers receive up to 30 books a week; now they come on just one cartridge, making storage and return much easier. In special instances, new books like James Comey's *A Higher Loyalty* were available the day they were published. Many patrons have taken advantage of the ability to load an entire series, such as Louis L'Amour's Sackett series, onto one cartridge. And we now have instant access to thousands more older books by simply downloading them as we need them.

Behind the Scenes at KTBL: Automated Book Selection

The majority of KTBL patrons prefer librarians to select books for them if they do not have any requests of their own. There are simply too many patrons for us to do this manually, so we use a computer program called Autoselect. When a patron runs low on requests, the librarian uses Autoselect to match patron reading interests with books that have those same terms as subject headings.

Every book has up to six subject headings assigned to it. These subject headings are tags that best describe the type of book. They can be fiction genres (like Romance, Western, or Mystery/Suspense) or they can be non-fiction topics (like Biography, US History, or Science). Most general subject headings have sub-headings. For example, Mystery/Suspense has subcategories like Mystery Thriller, Mystery Gentle, etc. Each patron may have up to ten favorite subject headings on their record.

When new books are available, the librarians choose from a list of 468 subject headings to assign the most appropriate ones. Librarians also include information such as the comprehension level (juvenile, young adult, or adult), and exclusions (sex, language, violence, or unrated). While we cannot guarantee you'll like every book, using Autoselect allows us to make sure you'll have plenty to read.

Volunteer Spotlight: Don Dampier



Don Dampier has been a narrator for the Kentucky Talking Book Library since 2006, and has narrated 17 books for our program. He's also a local author interested in history. In fact, Don had just finished writing his first book, *Finding the 50's*, and was interested in recording it for a relative who experienced vision loss. His neighbor, longtime volunteer narrator John Schaaf, suggested he narrate it for KTBL so others could enjoy it as well.

After passing his audition, Don narrated his book and was asked if he would be interested in continuing as a narrator. We're very pleased that Don accepted, and he's been volunteering with KTBL ever since.

Two books that he especially enjoyed recording were *Dr. Max: Adventures of a Kentucky Vet* (DKY 02765), which was challenging due to medical terms and some Spanish language, and *A River Away* (DKY 02826), an account of fighting in the Northwest Territory during the 1700's. You may also recognize his voice in *Our Only World* by Wendell Berry (DBC 05594) and *Grandpap Told Me Tales: Memories of an Appalachian Childhood* (DBC 01513).

2018 Kentucky Talking Book Library Patron Survey

Please take a few moments to complete our annual survey. Your feedback helps us make decisions about reading materials, services, and procedures to help us better serve you. You may take this survey online by clicking on this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WTRQCDF>

You may also call our toll-free number 1-800-372-2968 or our local number 1-502-564-5791. This survey is anonymous, so do not give your name.



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Kentucky Talking Book Library
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Free Matter for the Blind
and Physically Handicapped
DMM 703.5